

By: Representative Rotenberry

To: Wildlife, Fisheries and
Parks

HOUSE BILL NO. 475

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-7-20.1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO REDUCE FROM TWELVE YEARS TO TEN YEARS THE MINIMUM AGE OF
3 CHILDREN WHO ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE A HUNTER EDUCATION COURSE
4 AND WHO MUST BE SUPERVISED BY AN ADULT WHEN ENGAGED IN HUNTING
5 ACTIVITIES; TO PRESCRIBE CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS; AND
6 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

8 **SECTION 1.** Section 49-7-20.1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
9 amended as follows:

10 49-7-20.1. (1) To reduce hunting accidents of children
11 under license age, to protect the safety of these children and to
12 promote hunter safety, a child at least ten (10) years of age and
13 under sixteen (16) years of age must have a certificate of
14 satisfactory completion of a hunter education course approved by
15 the department before hunting in this state.

16 (2) A child under the age of ten (10) must be in the
17 presence and under the direct supervision of a licensed or exempt
18 hunter at least twenty-one (21) years of age when the child is
19 hunting.

20 (3) A violation of subsection (1) or subsection (2) of this
21 section shall be punished as follows:

22 (a) For conviction of a first offense:

23 (i) The parents or legal guardian of the child may
24 be fined not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00);

25 (ii) The child shall be required to attend and
26 satisfactorily complete a hunter education course approved by the
27 Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks; and

28 (iii) The child shall be warned of the penalty for
29 a second violation.

30 (b) For conviction of a second offense, the offenses
31 being committed within three (3) years:

32 (i) The parents or legal guardian of the child
33 shall be fined not more than One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars
34 (\$1,500.00);

35 (ii) The child shall be required to attend and
36 satisfactorily complete a hunter education course approved by the
37 Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks and/or required to
38 satisfactorily complete thirty (30) hours of community service;
39 and

40 (iii) The child shall be warned of the penalty for
41 a third violation.

42 (c) For conviction of a third offense, the offenses
43 being committed within three (3) years:

44 (i) The parents or legal guardian of the child
45 shall be fined Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00);

46 (ii) The child shall be required to satisfactorily
47 complete sixty (60) hours of community service; and

48 (iii) All firearms, equipment and vehicles not
49 authorized for operation on public roadways, that were used in the
50 hunt shall be seized and forfeited.

51 (d) For conviction of a fourth or subsequent offense,
52 the offenses being committed within three (3) years:

53 (i) The parents or legal guardian of the child
54 shall be fined Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00); and

55 (ii) All firearms, equipment and vehicles not
56 authorized for operation on public roadways, that were used in the
57 hunt shall be seized and forfeited.

58 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
59 and after July 1, 2006.